details of important projects proposed to be commissioned to achieve the target are given in Annexure. *[See Appendix 182, Annexure No. 14]*

Postal**:** There is a target for opening 3 Departmental sub-post Offices and 35 extra Departmental Branch Post Offices during the Annual Plan 1997-98 subject to availability of resources. The details of developmental projects are given in Annexure in respect of opening of Post Offices and in respect of Building Projects.

(d) and (e)

Telecom: The proposed development projects for 1997-98 are expected to be executed as planned and their present status is given in *Annexure-[See Appendix 182, Annexure No. 14]*

Postal: (i) Building Projects:- The details of proposals submitted by Maharashtra Circle have been prioritised and are under various stages of examination. The status of ongoing Projects with reasons for delay is given in Annexure-[See *Appendix 182, Annexure No. 14]*

(ii) Opening of Post Offices: The details of proposals for opening of Post Offices submitted by Maharashtra Circle alongwith action taken/present position are given in Annexure *[See Appendix 182, Annexure No. 14]* The reasons for non-sanctioning is that the power to create posts does not vest with the Departments, as a result of which the cases have been taken up with the Ministry of Finance. No approval has so far been received from them.

(f) Yes, Sir, A target for opening of 38 Post Offices has been fixed for Maharashtra Circle which would include those to be opened in the Suburban areas of Mumbai subject to availability of resources. Moreover, certain proposals have been received from Maharashtra Circle for Building Projects and are under various stages of examination.

Roads in North-Eastern Region

* 117. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering introduction of Build-Operate-Transfer scheme for development of roads in North-Eastern region in general and Assam in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) Private investments in the development of National Highways under the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) scheme is in operation throughout the country, including the North-Eastern region. However, no such proposal has come up for consideration in the North-Eastern region, including the State of Assam.

Recruitment Policy in Department of Posts

*118. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Postal Department has no uniform recruitment policy, instead the department had been having a fluctuating recruitment policy for the past several decades; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the action taken by his Ministry to bring a uniform recruitment policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Water Transport Facilities along Mumbai's Coastal Line

* 119. SHRIMATI **MALTI** SHARMA:

PROF. RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the State Government of Maharashtra is making elaborate plans for developing water transport facilities along the Mumbai's coastal line for carrying passengers as well as cargo;

(b) whether the State Government has approached the Union Government for any assistance for the said project; and

(c) if so, the nature of assistance asked for and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN):

(a) Ministry of Surface Transport is not aware of such eleborate plan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Loss of MIG aircrafts crashes

*120. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAF fighter aircrafts lost in crashes since 1973, till date, and how many of these are MIG aircrafts;

(b) what is the total estmated loss suffered as a result of these crashes',

(c) the number of crew members who died in these accidents;

(d) the number of MIG figther aircrafts crashed due to inherent technical defects; and

(e) what is the outcome of the negotiations with the suppliers of MIG aircrafts for supplying technically defective aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) Since 1973 IAF have lost 477 fighter aircraft in air crashes which include 314 MIG variants. Out of these MIG variants, 118 were lost due to technical defect 135 IAF pilot have been killed and a loss of approximately Rs. 1237 Crores has been suffered on account of these accidents.

(e) No general negotiations have been conducted with suppliers of MIG aircraft. However, whenever technical defect is suspected, matter is taken up with designer/ manufacturer on case-to-case basis. A warranty clause is available in all the repair and supply contracts with foreign agencies for free repairs/ replacements during the warranty period.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

गावों में उप डाकघर

776. **प्रो. राम बख्श सिंह वर्मा:**
श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में आज की स्थिति के अनुसार कितने गाँवों में उप डाकघर कार्य कर रहे हैं;

(ख) नौवी पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान देश में कितने गावों में उप डाकघर खोले जायेंगे;

(ग) डाकघर खोलने के लिए क्या मानदण्ड निर्धारित किये गये हैं;

(घ) क्या ग्रामीण तथा शहरी क्षेत्रों में डाकघर खोलने के लिये मानदण्डों में कोई अन्तर है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(च) वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश में कितने उप डाकघरों की संस्वीकृति दी गई?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) समूचे देश के 6,08,573 गांवों में से 1,46,801 गांवों में डाकघर हैं। समूचे देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 14,444,34 डाकघर कार्य कर रहे हैं।

(ख)जनजातीय क्षेत्रों तथा अन्य क्षेत्रों में विभागीय डाकघर खोलने के लिए लक्ष्य निर्धारित किए जाते हैं। अब तक योजना आयोग द्वारा वार्षिक योजना, 1997-98 के दैरान डाकघर खोलने के लक्ष्यों को मंजूरी प्रदान की गई है। वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान समूचे देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में खोले जाने वाले अतिरिक्त विभागीय शाखा डाकघरों का सर्किलवार ब्यौरा-1 में दिया गया है (नीचे देखिए)

(ग) डाकघर खोलने के मानदण्ड विवरण-11 में दिए गए हैं। (नीचे देखिए)

(घ)शहरी क्षेत्रों में अतिरक्त विभागीय शाखा डाकघर नहीं खोले जाते हैं। शहरी तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में विभागीय उप डाकघर खोलने के मानदण्ड अलग अलग हैं।

(ड़)शहरी तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के मानदण्डों में अंतर का कारण यह है कि शहरी क्षेत्रों में जनसंख्या का अत्याधिक घनत्व होता है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप डाकघर से अधिक आय की प्राप्ति होती है तथा यह आत्मनिर्भर बना रहता है।

(च)वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश के लिए मंजूर किए गए उप डाकघरों की संख्या 2 है।